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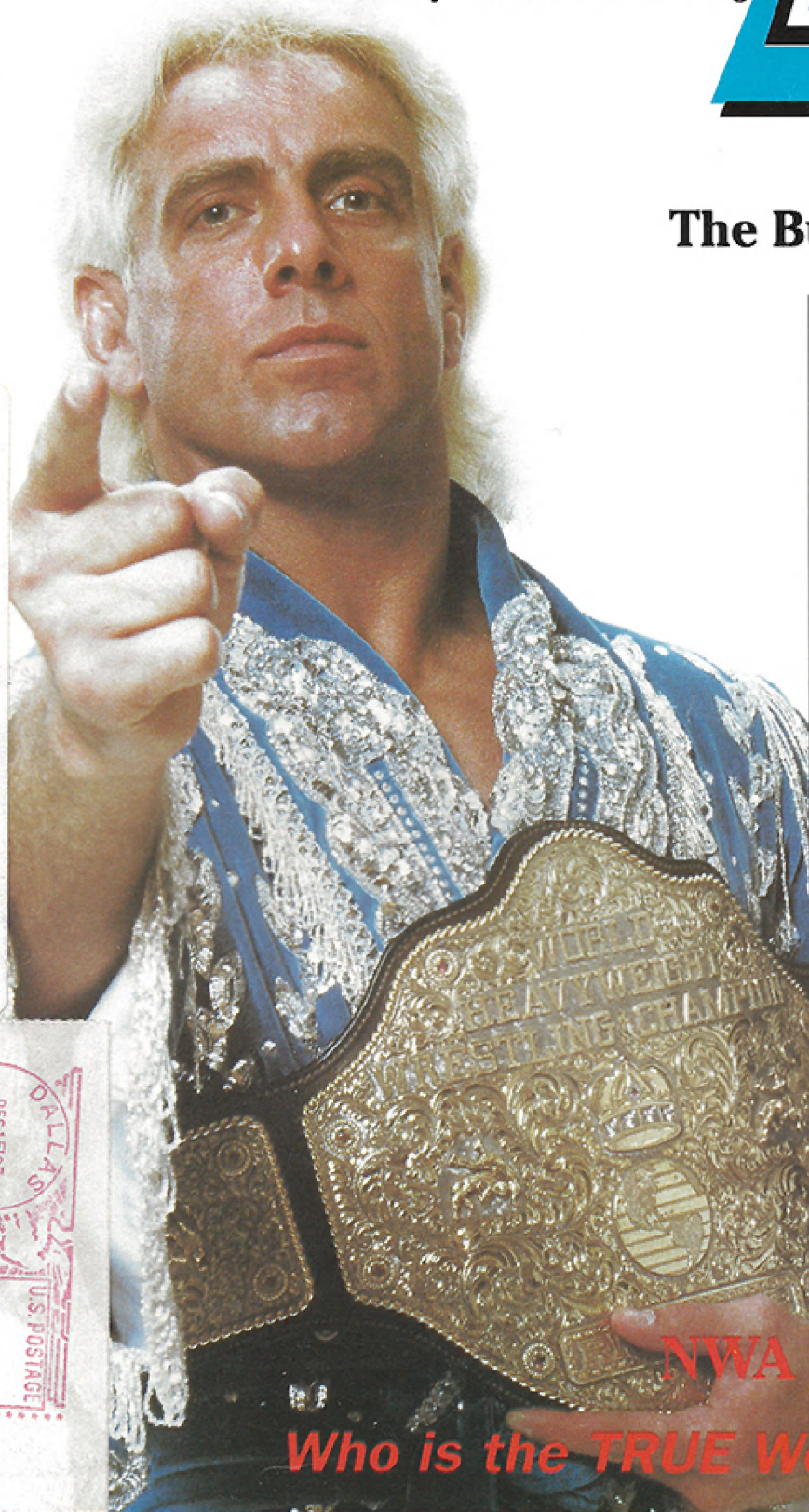
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# NWA Pro Wrestling Digest

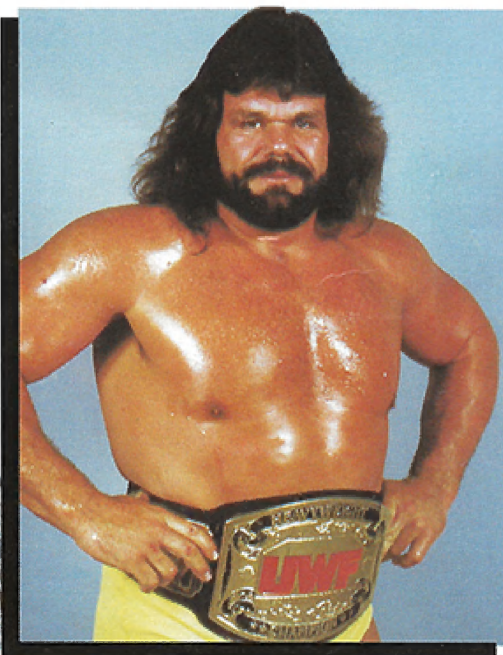
The Very BEST in Pro Wrestling

Collector's Edition  
Volume 1, No. 1. \$3.00 U.S.

## Special Report: The Bunkhouse Stampede



KENNETH BROWN  
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Steve "Dr. Death" Williams  
UWF World Champion

**Ric Flair**  
New 5-time  
NWA World Champion

**Who is the TRUE World Champion???**

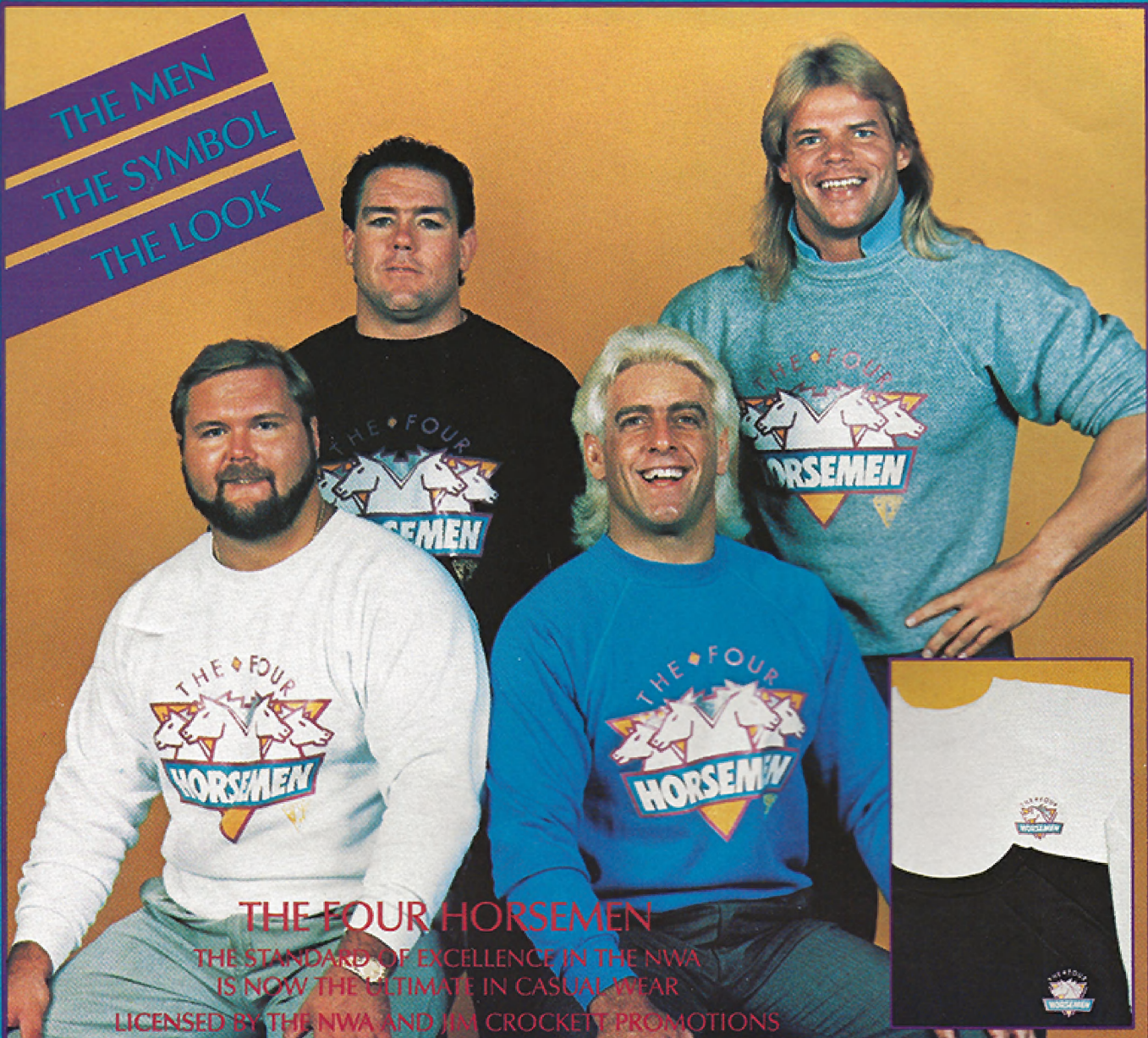
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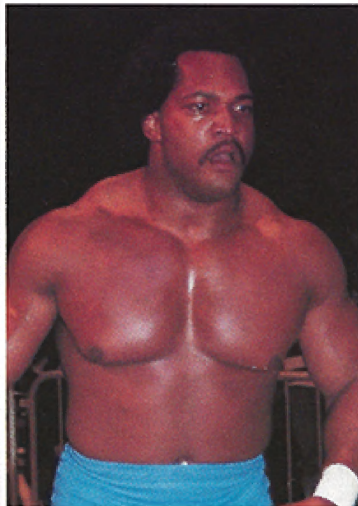
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# Picture Gallery



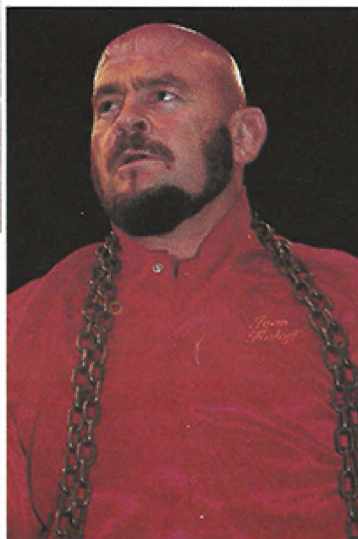
**Ric Flair vs. Ron Garvin**



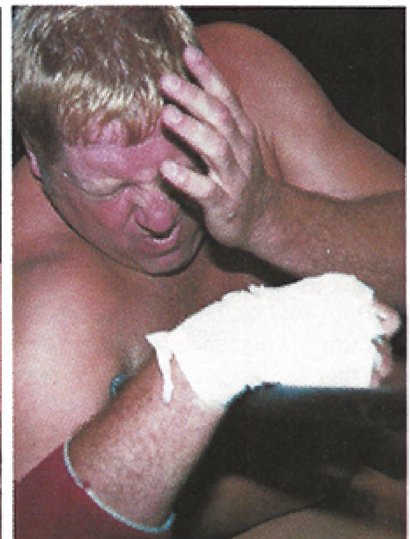
**Ron Simmons**



**Lex Luger**



**Ivan Koloff**



**Dick Murdoch**



**Jimmy Cornette and Big Bubba Rogers**



**Missy Hyatt**



**Kevin Sullivan**



## From the Publisher:



Welcome to the premier issue of NWA Pro Wrestling Digest™. Readers of All Pro Wrestling™ Magazine will now receive this new improved magazine instead. NWA Pro Wrestling Digest™ is written and published by the same people, but we use all glossy paper now, use mostly color pictures, and have major distribution. We are also the Official Magazine of the NWA. That means we can grow and make major (expensive) improvements like you see in this issue. We call this issue you're holding No. 1. This is a fresh start and we hope you enjoy it.

We are also very happy to announce that Jim Ross, long time play by play man and commentator, will be taking time from his daily duties at The Wrestling Network to be Editor of this magazine. Jim is recognized as one of the best wrestling commentators in the business and is highly respected. We never dreamed that someone of Mr. Ross' caliber would become our editor and we are very excited about what Jim will bring to us.

The NWA is the oldest wrestling organization in the world. It travels to the far corners of this country on a never-ending basis and its stars are major international stars as well. For example, the Road Warriors hold the International Tag-Team Champions belts, which they won in a legitimate nationally televised tournament in Japan. In fact, they have recently returned to Japan and successfully defended those belts. Dr. Death is a major star in Japan also and defended the UWF belt in Tokyo recently. Dick Murdoch is legendary for his dirty tactics and brawling manner over there and is very loudly booed by the normally polite Japanese audience. (We will cover some international news as space permits.) The NWA is truly the Major League of Professional Wrestling. It's history of champions includes the greatest wrestling names of all time. Names like Lou Thesz, the Funks, the Briscoes, Dusty Rhodes, Ric Flair, The Road Warriors and The Four Horsemen have all been recorded in wrestling history. Add to this the heritage that Steve "Dr. Death" Williams and the UWF bring to it and you have the absolute very best in professional wrestling. Wrestling has never been better and 1988 promises to be an exciting year with The Bunkhouse Stampede season coming right up.

The goal of this magazine is to keep you abreast of all the latest wrestling news, as well as inside information on all your favorite wrestlers and personalities. We have assembled a crack photography team that will be bringing you the highlights from the great action all over this country. We hope you enjoy this magazine and watch all the shows that make up The Wrestling Network. If you have any comments or suggestions, please send them in. We love wrestling as much as you do, so we want to do the best job we can. Let us know how we're doing.

Have a very merry Christmas and a prosperous and happy New Year. Please drive safe and watch out for the other guy especially. I'll see you at ringside and in next month's issue.

Dennis A. Brent



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**Canon equipment exclusively used for 35mm.**

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**Postmaster:** Address changes should be sent to NWA Pro Wrestling Digest™, PO Box 6488, Dallas, TX 75379.



# NWA Pro Wrestling Digest™

**Vol.1 - No. 1**

Dec. '87 - early Jan. '88

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# Letters to the Editor:

*If you have any questions about wrestlers or wrestling, please write to Letters To The Editor, PO Box 6488, Dallas TX 75379. Due to volume, all letters cannot be answered in these pages, so please include a self-addressed stamped envelope for a personal reply. We cannot give out wrestlers' addresses or personal information, but we'll try to answer whatever we can. Sometimes letters are edited to fit the space allowed. We encourage you to write us.*

*To readers starting with this issue, previous to this our magazine was called All Pro Wrestling. That is why the letters are addressed this way, rather than NWA Pro Wrestling Digest™.*

Dear All Pro Wrestling,

I just LOVE what is happening on your wrestling shows! I love seeing the NWA stars mix it up with the UWF guys. This has got to be the best thing that John Ayres and Jim Crockett could ever have done. Oh, and I love seeing Jim Ross question the NWA guys. It's great! When will we see Dr. Death go against the Four Horsemen? Steve, Ron Simmons, Dusty Rhodes and Barry Windham would be a great team to do it. I saw Dusty and Steve team together in a Bull-rope match at the Superdome this summer and it was great! Judy Wilson  
Houma, LA.

*Good idea! Next month you can enter this into our Dream Match Contest! Details are on Page 28.*

Dear All Pro Wrestling,

I'm a very dedicated fan. I tape the shows every week and I've only missed one weekend. I have a suggestion for your magazine. I think you should include a centerfold of STING, since he's definitely making big news. You should also include an interview. Thanks!  
Stephanie King  
Sapulpa, OK

*Thanks! Good idea. We have a story on STING (including lots of color pictures) this issue.*

Dear All Pro Wrestling,

I am a big fan of Michael Hayes and was wondering if he's had any concerts. I love his music and would love to see it live. Also I love Steve Williams and think he is the best wrestler. I want to thank the NWA and UWF for bringing the Great American Bash to Oklahoma, because being ringside when Dr. Death won the belt was the best, and something I'll always remember. How old is Terry Taylor?  
Vicki Johnson  
Oklahoma City, OK

*Vicki, - Michael Hayes did one concert at The Great American Bash in Charlotte this past summer. We heard that it was GREAT. No other concerts have been scheduled for the moment, however, because Michael is getting back into wrestling full time again. He spent a lot of time this year in the studio finishing up his new album. He is looking forward to tag-teaming with Jimmy Garvin at the moment. His album, by the way, is very good. We review it this issue. If you haven't ordered it, it is now being shipped and will have to do until Michael has time to sing live again.*

*Terry Taylor is in his late twenties. That's as specific as he'll get.*

Dear Sirs,

I received the back issues I had ordered of ALL PRO WRESTLING and I absolutely adore them. They are extremely excellent. In fact, I couldn't ask for anything better. I'm so very proud to be a subscriber to ALL PRO WRESTLING. It's the best and the editors have a great sense of humor. They're very funny.

Betty-Jo Ritter  
Moatsville, WV

*Thank you Betty for your comments.*

Dear All Pro Wrestling,

The Best Wrestler in the world is STING. Everyone says he is Everyman's Nightmare, but he is every girl's DREAM. I LOVE STING!  
Tina Warren  
Mangham, LA

Dear All Pro Wrestling,

My favorite wrestling show is the UWF show and Power Pro Wrestling. Jim Ross is the best at what he does.

I'd like to ask Terry Taylor two things. Who is paying you off? What is your definition of a friend? Thanks for letting me air my opinions.

Paula Traham  
Church Point, LA

*We showed your letter to Terry in Cleveland during the recent tapings there. He started laughing and said, "Paying me off? Eddie is paying me off. What's wrong with that? I've never made more money in my life or had more fun beating up people! Eddie's a great manager. My best friend is Eddie. He's there when I need him, and he doesn't whine to me about every little thing like other cry-babies I won't waste my breath on."*

Dear All Pro Wrestling,

Thank you for another great issue (Issue #5). Steve Williams, my favorite wrestler, finally did it! Congratulations, Steve, for being the first fan favorite to hold the UWF World Championship.

Some random comments about Issue #5. Best of luck to Sting in his decision to leave Hot Stuff International. Best of luck to the Lightning Express and Barry Windham in title defenses. I disagree with James Shank and feel Lex Luger, with or without the World Title, is awesome.

Could you rate the top 5 tag team contenders so the fans will know who deserves the title shots and who does not? Thanks again for a great magazine!  
Shawn Lealos  
Yukon, OK

*Thanks, Shawn. We now list complete ratings for all catagories.*

Dear All Pro Wrestling,

First of all I want to thank you for your prompt reply to my back issue order. Less than a week went by from the time I mailed my check until the day I received the magazine. Now that's what I call service!

Secondly, I would appreciate your printing my name and address in your "Letters To The Editor" column so I can correspond with other fans of the NWA and UWF; especially Terry Taylor admirers. Also, I will be enclosing my check for a twelve month subscription. Thank you for your time and attention.  
Deborah J. McClure  
Howes Cave, NY



## Letters - continued

*Debbie - Thank you! We've honored your request and offer the same to other wrestling fans. Starting next issue, we will have a "Pen-Pal" section for readers who want to correspond with other readers. Send us your name and address and mention who your favorites are. We'll list you in the future "Pen-Pal" column.*

Dear Mr. Brent,

I am writing after having read a copy of the latest issue of All Pro Wrestling Magazine, Issue #5. It was the first issue I have had the pleasure or opportunity to read. I enjoyed about the entire issue. I have a suggestion for your magazine which other fans might also enjoy. It occurred to me that fans might like to get together as pen pals, therefore, you should want to consider adding such a column or providing the addresses of the writers of letters you publish. Thank you for your consideration of my suggestion.

Peggy J. Alford  
Natalbany, LA

*We'll be happy to starting next issue. You did not give us permission to print your address THIS time, however.*

Dear All Pro Wrestling,

You are the best wrestling magazine. My husband and I have been wrestling fans since it started in the Stockyard Coliseum in Oklahoma City. Wrestling has been a great part of our lives and its never been better since the good old days. I look forward to watching the UWF and NWA on TV and to reading your magazine. Keep up the good work!

Your latest magazine was so good that I couldn't wait for my husband to lay it down so I could read it too.

Helen Vaughn  
Oklahoma City, OK

Dear All Pro Wrestling,

I'm glad to see the NWA and the UWF combining together. Steve "Dr. Death" Williams is great. Barry Switzer couldn't have done a better job on helping out with the training. You talked about dream matches or wrestling SuperBowl Extravanzas. It would be a dream match come true if a unification bout between the NWA champ, Ric Flair, and the UWF champ, Steve "Dr. Death" Williams could take place. It would sell out and fill any arena in the world. Maybe Jim Crockett and John Ayres will sign this World Title match between those

two champs for the undisputed World Champion. A Dream Match come true!  
A faithful subscriber,  
Jimmy Little  
Columbia, LA 71418

*You are not the only one who has thought that Flair against Doc would be a good match. At this writing Ron Garvin is the NWA champion, but after Starrcade it might be Flair again. But Windham might be the UWF champion! We'd still love to see that match!*

Dear All Pro Wrestling,

I have a letter to Sting. Here it is:

Dear Sting,

I've been watching wrestling ever since an ex-friend showed me who you were on T.V. My friend didn't like you and I did. I always defended you. Now I need answers.

1. Why did you stay loyal to Gilbert for so long?
2. Do you still think Steiner and you were a good team?
3. Is this war with Gilbert personal?

Frankie Jackson  
Lowell, AR

*Frankie - we showed your letter to Sting at the Tulsa tapings. He was happy to supply the answers. They are as follows:*

*1) "I stayed loyal to Eddie because he was managing my career and helped me quite a bit. He taught me to beat up people and not worry about it. Then he started courting Terry Taylor and all of a sudden I wasn't important anymore. He turned his back on me. He hit me with his boot and screwed me around more than once. That was the final straw."*

*2) "I think Steiner and I were a good team and would STILL make a good team! I said it then and I still say it today. He is a powerful man and we beat a lot of good teams. But he has to leave Eddie or I won't consider it. I gave him that chance and he turned it down. We fought against each other a few times, and I just don't know if tag-teaming together is a possibility anymore."*

*3) "Yes. Eddie is the one who made it personal. I will not forget what he's done to me."*

Dear All Pro Wrestling,

I don't know why everyone is down on Terry Taylor. He's the same man I've known for the last 3 years. He just got tired

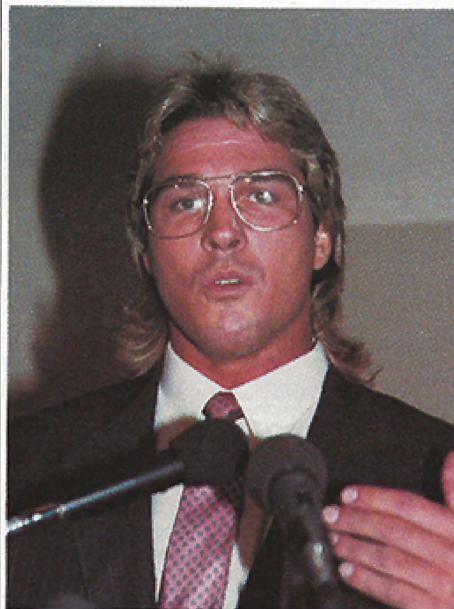
of getting shafted and I don't blame him. Why don't people stop criticizing him long enough to look at his side of it? Terry's right though, his fans didn't care about him or they wouldn't be putting him down.  
Connie Jackson  
Channelview, TX

Dear All Pro Wrestling,

I wish to tell you that your magazine is the greatest. Even though Terry Taylor has changed, he will always be one of my favorites. I am also very glad that Sting has joined the good guys. Keep up the good work. Your articles in issue #5 were great.

Debbie Hancock  
Springfield, AR

*Letters continue on  
Page 26...*



**Terry Taylor at his infamous press conference.**

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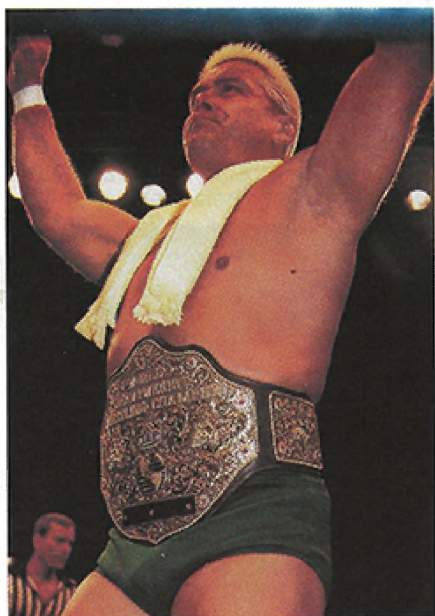
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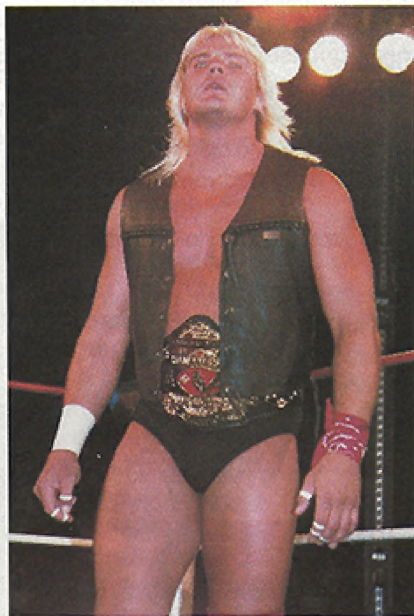


# Champions of 1987

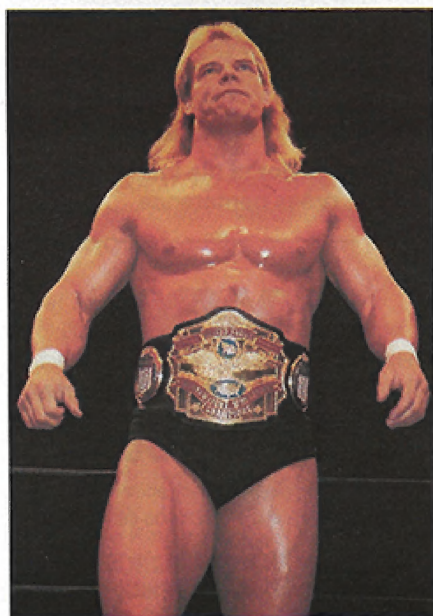
In pro wrestling the competition is so fierce and there are so many great stars fighting for a top position, that there have been many champions and title changes this past year. We will have several installments of 1987 champions' pictures in coming months, as well as new champions as they happen. In this issue, we have a picture of the new U.S. Champion with his belt in the Starrcade '87 coverage on Page 20.



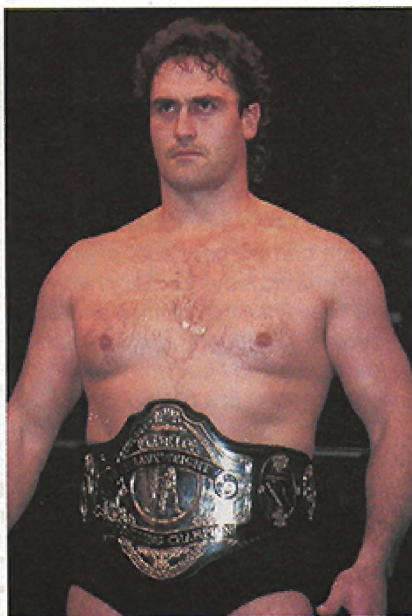
**Ron Garvin**  
former NWA World Champion



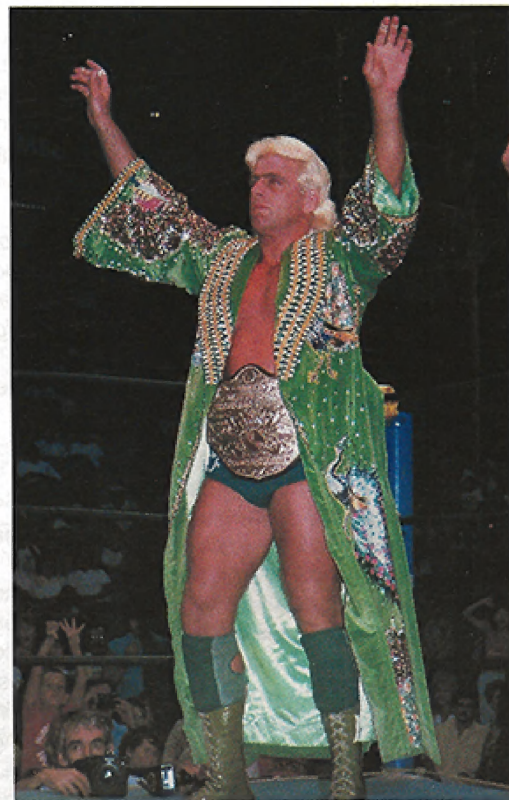
**Barry Windham**  
Western States Heritage Champion



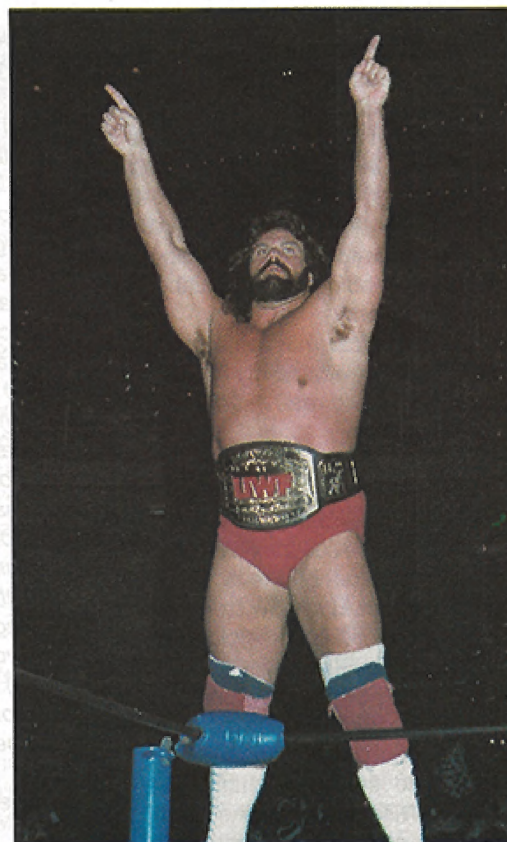
**Lex Luger**  
former U.S. Heavyweight Champion



**Mike Rotundo**  
Florida Heavyweight Champion



**"Nature Boy" Ric Flair**  
5-time NWA World Champion



**"Dr. Death" Steve Williams**  
UWF World Champion





I caught up with Dusty Rhodes in Ft. Worth, Texas at Billy Bob's, the World's Largest Honky Tonk, just prior to a performance by the Dream's buddy, Willie Nelson.

**Jim:** Dusty, thanks for taking the time to speak with me for the first issue of NWA Pro Wrestling Digest.

**Dusty:** You bet, Jimbo, I'm happy to do it.

**Jim:** In just a few days, in Chicago, you will compete in the most crucial match of your career. The challenge of taking on wrestling's "total package", Lex Luger, for the U.S. title is awesome enough, however, you have also put your career on the line, as well. Why?

**Dusty:** It's the thrill of the chase, the challenge. I've lived on the end of a lightning bolt for a long time. I don't know when it will end, but I do know this is something I have to do.

**Jim:** I don't understand that. You don't have anything to prove to anyone. You have accomplished more than any athlete in the sport. Is the U.S. Title *THAT* important?



**Dusty:** It's not just the U.S. Title, even though it's the only major title I've never won. It's kind of hard to explain. I have been fortunate in my career to win many championships. And, of course, championships mean money, which is

# "The American Dream" Dusty Rhodes

tells us, "Why I put my career on the line"

A brief interview conducted shortly before Starrcade '87  
by Jim Ross

*a great motivating factor. But what has always driven me upward has been the challenge of the fight. To beat the odds. That's what the "American Dream" is all about. And when J.J. Dillon wanted the stipulation included in the contract where I couldn't wrestle anywhere in the world for 90 days if I didn't win, I agreed to it faster than you can say "Hook 'em Horns."*

**Jim:** Willie will be on stage in just a couple of minutes, but I have just one more thought. It seems to me that you are accepting these stipulations more for the fans and the challenge, than for the income you will earn if you win the U.S. Title. Am I close?

**"I've lived on the end of a lightning bolt for a long time."**

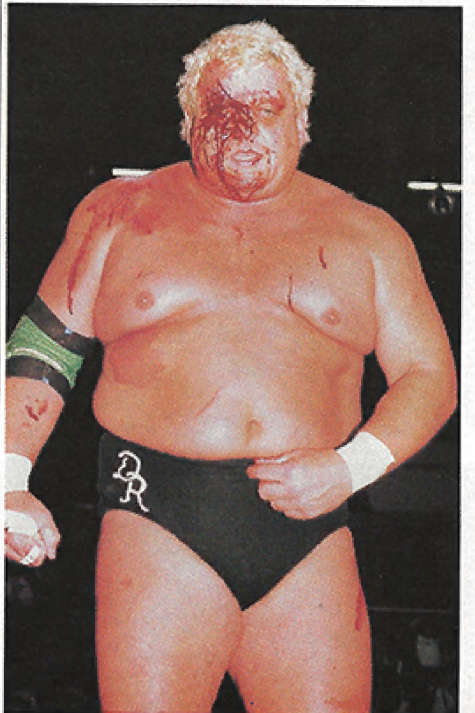
**Dusty:** Yep, you really are. You see, a lot of people, especially The Four Horsemen, feel I can't beat the greatest young superstar in our sport's history. Remember, Luger came for me. Luger issued the challenge man to man. And I accepted it man to man. (Willie's "Whiskey River" can be heard in the background...). Jim, it's like this. Remember John Wayne as Rooster Cogburn in "True Grit"? Nobody thought he could overcome those odds either. They thought he was just an old, one eyed, fat man. So, with that in mind, "Fill your hands, you s\*ns of b\*tches. I'm coming for you."

With that said, the Legend, the son of a plumber from Austin, Texas, left to go hear his favorite singer, and boyhood friend, do what he does best. And on Thanksgiving in Chicago, Dusty Rhodes will step into the ring to do what he does best. Accept a challenge in the name of the people who live the American Dream with him.



Dusty and Dr. Death celebrate their victory and friendship in a double bull-rope match.

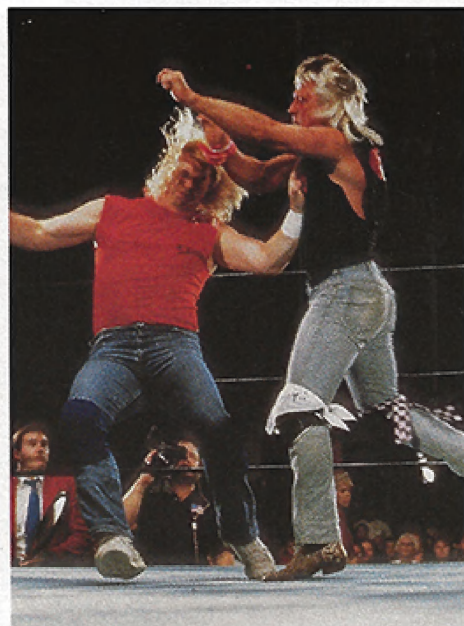
Below: The Dream, battle-weary, but victorious. Experience is on his side.





# Special Report:

## The Bunkhouse Stampede



The Bunkhouse Stampede is here. The roughest, toughest event in pro wrestling is about to arrive again. It has a history and a heritage that goes back to the days of the Old West. In those days, out on the range, there'd be 10, 15, sometimes twenty men living in a bunkhouse. When you put that many men that close together over an extended period of time, you're bound to have problems. There'd be a lot of bad blood between some people. Other people would just like to pick fights. When there was no other way to settle things, there was only one way to do it. You'd go outside. And you'd go the way you were. You might have your boots on. You'd have your jeans on. Maybe your shirt. Maybe your spurs. Sometimes you'd grab some kind of weapon on the way out the door. Maybe a whip. Maybe a bottle, a board, whatever. And that's how you'd go out to fight. And everyone would eventually get in-

involved until it was a brawl, with blood, teeth, chairs and bodies flying everywhere. And the winner of something like that was the man who was left standing.

The modern day "Stampede" is a 20-30 man Battle Royal using "Bunkhouse" rules. The rules are simple in a bunkhouse match. Basically, there are no rules. It is the wildest kind of match you could ever see. Each wrestler can wear jeans or any type of clothing to protect himself, as well as boots to use as a weapon. He can bring any object into the ring he wishes, be it a belt, a chain, a hammer, a branding iron, a whip... whatever (not lethal weapons however, like a knife or a gun). He then uses this object to survive. Anything you bring in could be used against yourself, if you let it get taken away. The fight begins and the last man left standing in the center of the ring is the winner. And that is a problem in itself. To get eliminated, a man must be thrown over the top rope and land on the floor. There are no pinfalls, no submissions and no eliminations because of excessive bleeding. The second most dangerous kind of match is a Battle Royal. When you combine the aspects of a Battle Royal with the added aspects of a Bunkhouse Brawl, you've got something very deadly. Because money, greed, jealousy and bad blood make the things a lot tougher than what they really are already.

The final aspect of a Bunkhouse Brawl is that when you get in this type of match, you have no friends. You can only win by being the last man standing. You have to watch your back, your front and all around you. Someone that you think is helping you can eliminate you in a moment of weakness on your part. You're in danger

of your career ending at any time. When it gets down to the last two men in the ring, anything can happen. It could end up to be Dusty and Nikita. It could be Ric Flair and Lex Luger. It could be Doc and one of the Road Warriors. Any combination is possible! There are no friends when the Grand Prize that is offered this year is \$500,000.

The roughest event in pro wrestling has been dominated by one man, specifically "The American Dream," Dusty Rhodes. He has won the first two overall Bunkhouse Stampede Championships, winning the "Bronze Boot" Award and the \$100,000 Bonus Purse each year.

This year it works a little bit different. The Bunkhouse Stampede is a series that is held in many different arenas across the country during December. Each man puts





## The Bunkhouse Stampede

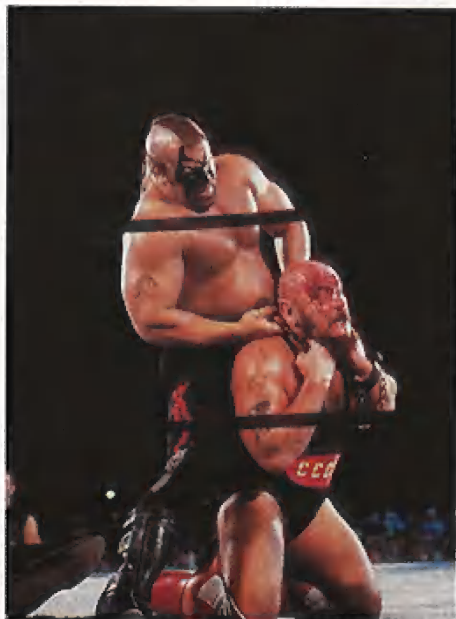
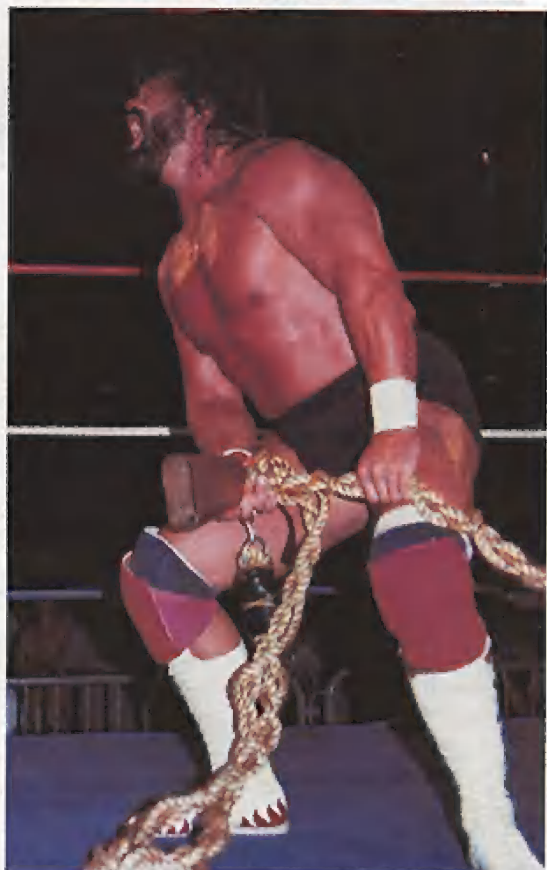
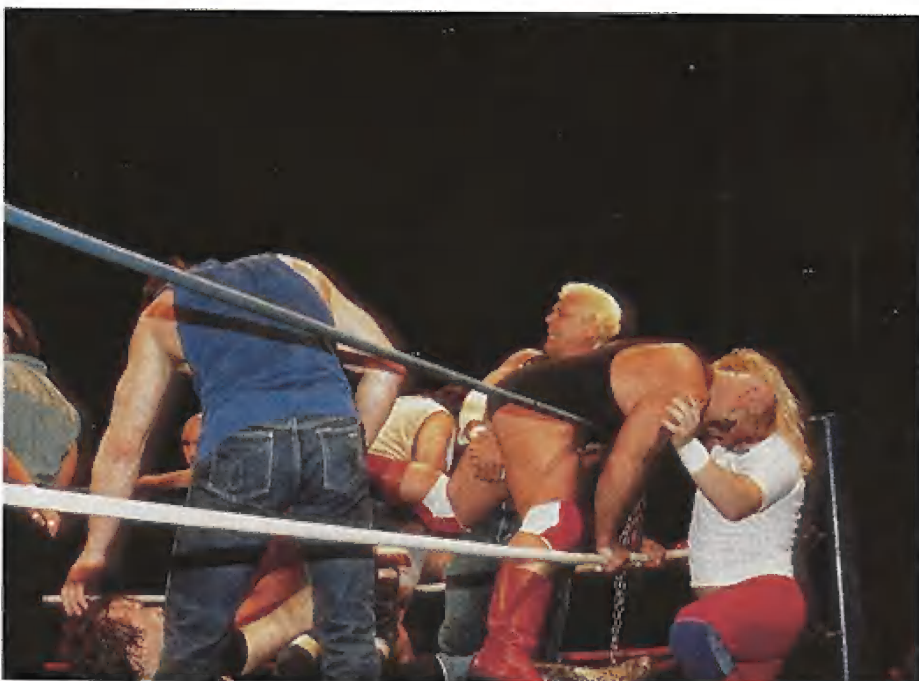
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up \$1000 as his entry fee for each individual Bunkhouse Brawl that he participates in. Each night of the Stampede, the event's payoff is literally "winner take all". Only the last man standing in the center of the ring gets a paycheck that night. And a darned good one, usually \$20,000 to \$30,000. At the end of the series, the man who won the most individual "Stampede" events is declared **The "Bunkhouse Champion"** and is awarded a \$500,000 Bonus Purse from Jim Crockett Promotions on top of the other money he has already won.

Many of the individual battles last year were won by many different wrestlers, both fan favorites and not. Fans during the last "Stampede" were treated to the fact that Rhodes and "Big" Bubba Rogers ended in a tie, and had to settle the score in a separate cage match held in Pittsburgh. In front of a sold-out Civic Arena, Dusty Rhodes won the match for his second Stampede title in a row.

This year the Bunkhouse matches will have even more participants than ever. Thanks to negotiations between the two commissioners, John Ayres and Jim Crockett, names like Dr. Death, Sting, Ron Simmons, The Shepherders, Eddie Gilbert, Terry Taylor, Black Bart, etc. will be battling it out with NWA stars like Dusty Rhodes, Ric Flair, Nikita Koloff, Tully Blanchard, The Road Warriors, The Warlord, etc. *This is going to be the wildest Bunkhouse season ever!! Anything, and probably everything is going to happen.*



\* The Bunkhouse Stampede \*  
All over the country in December.

See it in a city near you.





# ***Ric Flair***

## ***5-Time NWA World Champion***



Nikita sends Flair flying, but Flair ends up retaining the belt.



# Top Tag-Teams of 1987

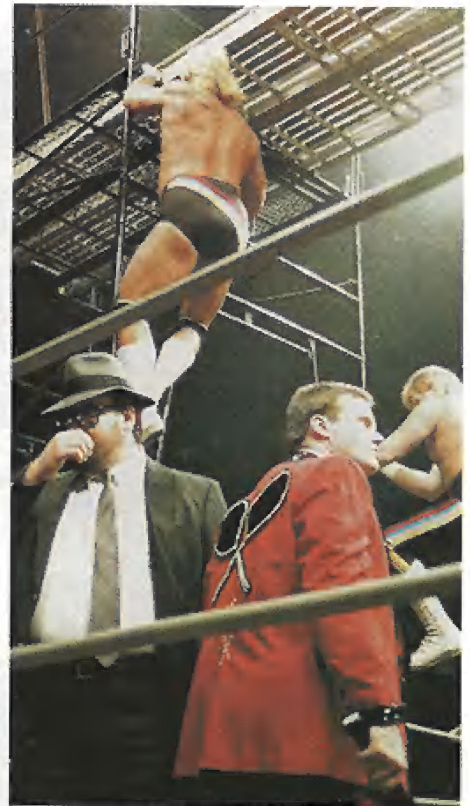
Next month, we will show more great tag-team combinations from 1987, as well as some teams that look great for 1988. Before many of you write, we did not forget The Road Warriors! They have a page of their own this issue on Page 22.



Current NWA World Tag-Team Champions,  
Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard



The Super Powers  
Dusty Rhodes and Nikita Koloff



The Midnight Express, Eaton & Lane  
with Jimmy Cornette & Big Bubba Rogers



The Rock-N-Roll Express  
Ricky Morton and Robert Gibson



The Lightning Express  
Brad Armstrong and Tim Horner



Warlord and Barbarian with Paul Jones (center).



Michael Hayes and Jimmy Garvin



The New Breed  
Sean Royal and Todd Champion

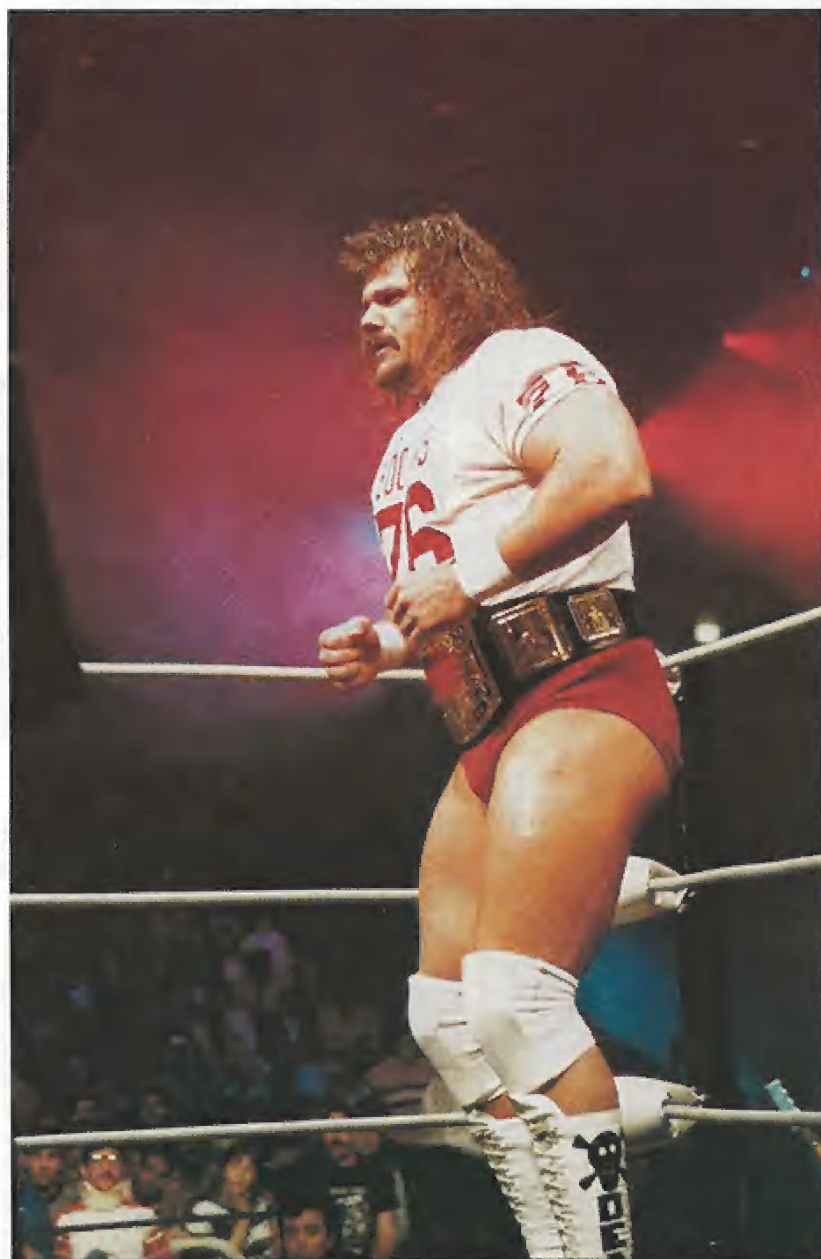


# "Dr. Death"

**Steve Williams**

**UWF Champion**

**The Wrestling Machine of the World**



**Above: Dr. Death at Starrcade '87.**  
*Full details next issue...*



**Doc celebrates his UWF World Title victory with his good friend, Dusty Rhodes.**



**Doc gets even with Dick Murdoch.**





# Who does Dr. Death fear most in wrestling?

by Dennis A. Brent

*We had a chance to ask Steve Williams that question in Las Vegas at the NWA event held there not long ago. It was the night before Ric Flair lost his title to Ron Garvin. Doc was a little late getting to the building that night and was not in the best of moods. We entered the dressing room and spotted Williams by a locker storing his equipment. I went over and addressed him.*

"Doc?", I asked.

"WHAT??", he bellowed.

"Sorry, Doc. I just thought I might ask you a few questions."

He turned around and glared at me. His severe look softened some and he said, "I'm p'ssed! I didn't get my wake-up call. Sorry, but I'm in a real BAD mood. I think I'll stay this way for my match later."

"What's this I hear about Barry Windham, Doc? I hear rumors that the promoters are trying to arrange a match for you to wrestle Windham for your title at Starrcade. Have you heard anything about this? Would you wrestle each other? I thought you were friends."

"Yea, I heard some things, but I haven't been officially contacted yet. I'll sign that contract, though. He is the #1 contender for my belt. Windham's the one who'd be coming after me. He's the one who wants a title-shot. I'm not going after his belt. I'm the World Champion and I take on all comers. There's always got to be a #1, and I'm it, just like the University of Oklahoma. Barry Windham is a great athlete and I'll shake his hand and even buy him a beer or two after the matches, but when the bell rings, it is two opponents with the same goal. Pin your opponent any way you can and pick up the belt. That's what'll be on both of our minds. He'd be a fool not to try and take it from me. There's always got to be a champion. But I'll tell you what. I'm a machine. I'm a wrestling machine. I know everything there is to know about wrestling."

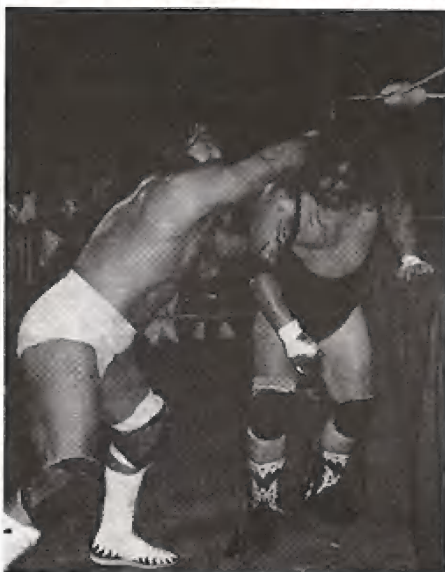
"Any predictions if the match comes off?"

"Yea. I predict a tough fight. I don't think it would break down and get out of hand, though, as we are both professionals. I'm not planning to bend any rules and I don't think he would. This will be a wrestling match. But in the heat of battle, friendships

are sometimes forgotten. It happens. We'll see. I predict a clean, tough fought battle. With me winning, of course. I hate to lose. And besides, it's been a LONG time since a Texan has beat an Oklahoman."

"Doc, you are without a doubt one of the biggest, toughest men in wrestling. You are built like a huge tree trunk. You've fought the biggest and the best. I don't think there's a man you wouldn't get in the ring with. I know you have the confidence that you will win any match you are involved in, so please don't take this wrong. But is there anybody in wrestling that you might fear for a different reason?"

"What? Are you kidding? I'm not afraid of anybody! I wasn't afraid when Dick Murdoch and Eddie Gilbert were ganging up on me and broke my arm. I wanted to hit them with my other one, those bums. I wasn't afraid of Big Bubba and he's one of the biggest. I wasn't afraid of Black Bart even when he was swinging that branding iron at me. And I'm certainly not afraid of



Barry Windham. What are you talking about?"

"Well, I know you've certainly been against some big men and some tall odds on occasion. What about a man like Ric Flair, the 4-time NWA World Champion. You know Flair has a record of not losing title matches. In fact, he has only lost three times out of hundreds of title defenses over the years." (Editor's note: as



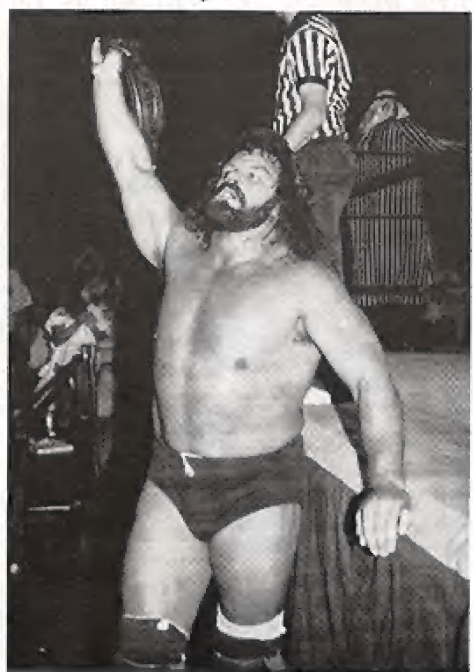
*noted above, this interview was taken the night before Ron Garvin won the belt from Flair in Detroit. That would be four losses in hundreds of defenses - still not a bad record.)*

"I know who Ric Flair is."

"Well, I was just wondering. What do you think of him?"

"I have a tremendous amount of respect for Ric Flair. He has been a great world champion, and for a lot of years too. But I'm certainly not afraid of him. I'm young. I'm big and strong and my career is just beginning. He's been around a lot of years. But he's a master. He's shrewd, but he has to be. He's learned how to hold onto his title. I could take him, though. He's never been the victim of 'The Oklahoma Stampede', Doc smiles and adds.

"Would you wrestle him and put up your belt against his? Against a man who does not





### Dr. Death, continued...

lose? One of you would end up a true World Champion and the other would have to climb the ladder again. It would be a great match, but one of you would not be champion any longer. Would you go against a man who almost NEVER loses?"

"Hey, I'd do it. I wouldn't mind putting that 35 pounds of NWA gold and silver over my shoulder with the UWF belt around my waist. I'm pretty good at holding onto my belt too, if you hadn't noticed. But I bet he wouldn't do it. Not against me. Not against a total wrestling machine."

"Well, you might be right there, Doc. But if he did wrestle you, I'd suggest a cage match. Otherwise you'll be contending with the Horsemen too."

"I've got friends to watch my back too. Dusty Rhodes, Ron Simmons, even Barry Windham."

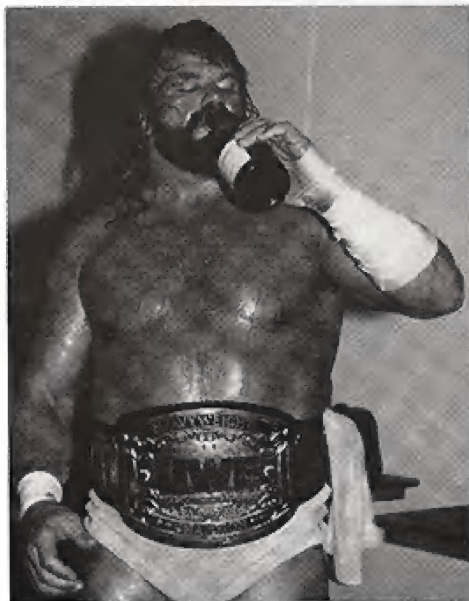
"In a match like this, Doc, you cannot be distracted. You don't want a double-DQ. As you know, Flair is a master at hanging onto the title any way possible."

"He's never been against anybody that just went in and flat out pounded him into a small red spot on the mat, has he? That'll be a new experience for him, I bet. See, if I wrestle Windham, that's what it'll be. A wrestling match. With someone like Flair, I've got to go in and hurt him real bad, put him out of action, maybe break a bone or two, before he has time to pull his bulls\*\*t."

"Well, it would sure be a great match."

At that point, a head popped into the dressing room and told Doc that he had five minutes before his match.

He said, "Look man, I gotta get ready. I'm not afraid of anybody, and that includes Flair. I'm a machine. I know everything there is to know about wrestling. Bring 'em on, I'm ready. If you can talk to somebody and get that match arranged, I'm ready anytime."



## Ric Flair - A response, of sorts.

We went over to Ric Flair's dressing room. Arn Anderson was standing outside the closed door. I knocked and went to turn the door knob when Anderson said,

"What do you want?"

"I'm here to interview the champ for the magazine. I've got a question for him," I said.

"He doesn't answer questions and no one gets in to see the champ unless they have a previous appointment made well in advance" Anderson told me.

"This will only take a few minutes. Won't you just ask Ric?" I asked.

"That's Mr. Flair to you, bub. No appointment, no interview."

At that point, the door opened and Ric Flair popped his head out.

"What's all the noise out here? I'm getting a manicure. Hold it down," Flair said.

"Champ, would you answer a few questions for me?" I quickly asked.

Flair looked at me and looked at Anderson and said, "What's going on here, Double-A? You know my policy. Why is he talking to me?"

"Sorry, Champ. I didn't mean it. He's gone. He's history. Never happen again" Anderson said.

I felt myself being pushed away by strong hands. Over my shoulder I saw that I was running out of time, so I said to the disappearing head of Ric Flair,

"Hey Ric, Dr. Death says he can beat you and take your belt. He wants BOTH World belts."

Flair stuck his head back out the door and snapped to me,

"Oh yeah? Let him try. Let him get past the Horsemen. Let him get past Jim Crockett Promotions. I'm the greatest World Champion this sport has ever known. Who are you? Are you here looking for trouble? No one gets to wrestle me for the title unless they've proven themselves and being World Champion of the UWF isn't good enough for me. Now you take that back to Dr. Death, and you tell John Ayres that it's gonna take a whole lot of money to sign that match."

Then the door slammed. It opened again and a girl with a manicure setup was ejected and the door slammed again behind her. Then the door opened once



more and some currency was thrown out into the hallway and the door slammed for the last time. Anderson was glowering at me, so I thought it was time to leave, which I did.

*I wonder who Ric Flair fears the most??*

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# Larry Zbyszko

## Does this guy have NERVE or what?

Larry Zbyszko is a name that may be familiar to many wrestling fans. And if it's not, it soon will be. Zbyszko has had a very active wrestling career and tore his way across several wrestling associations. He has always been at the top, but has never been a world champion. He has come to the NWA aiming for the World's Championship, but is aiming first at Barry Windham and the Western States Title as his starting belt in his climb to the NWA World Title. Zbyszko has gone on national television and given Windham the time-limit of Starrcade to surrender the belt to either himself or to Baby Doll. It will prevent Windham from severe pain and national embarrassment, Zbyszko says. As if Windham WOULD just hand over the title! Here's the story in Zbyszko's own words.

**Jim Ross:** Larry, what is this plan you say you have? Please explain this "time-limit" you've given Barry Windham.

**Larry Zbyszko:** I'm here in the true Major League of Professional Wrestling to take the title that rightfully belongs to me. I'm tired of getting shafted. I've given Mr. Windham the time-limit of Starrcade to present either myself or Baby Doll with the Western States Heritage Belt. After Starrcade, Windham, the offer is expired. Time limit is up. If you don't hand it over, I'm gonna take it from you! With the help of Baby Doll, we're gonna beat you. You see, Baby Doll has records, files and videotapes on you. And on Dusty Rhodes. On Ric Flair. She knows these guys better than they do. I know of a few of your weaknesses. And you know what else? I'm gonna lie. I'm gonna cheat. I'm gonna steal. I'm gonna slander. I'm not running for President, baby! I'M RUNNING FOR THE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE WORLD. And YOU, Barry Windham, are the stepping stone to that title. And if we have to go through Nikita Koloff, I know his weaknesses too, don't I? (He says to Baby Doll). If I have to tear Dusty Rhodes's reputation apart, this woman knows more about Dusty Rhodes than his mother! AND NOW I KNOW IT!

So Windham, Starrcade's almost upon us, and your golden opportunity is running out of time. So you either hand over your belt or I hand you over to the pages of some old wrestling magazine as a "Never was a Nobody".

I'm a man who for thirteen glorious years has been a SUPER-STAR. I feuded with Bruno Sammartino. He's retired from wrestling. I beat up Nick Bockwinkel too many times, and he's had to quit wrestling.

**Jim:** Well, I don't think Windham is just going to hand over the belt. He might agree to wrestle you for it.

**Zbyszko:** It's not up to you, is it Jim Ross? You should be glad, too, that you don't have this terrible decision to make. If he doesn't make his mind up, VERY SOON, I will have no choice but to simply take it from him. And that's not a weak threat.



Zbyszko and Baby Doll



Jim Ross talks to Larry Zbyszko

**Jim:** What exactly is your arrangement with Baby Doll? How did you two get together?

**Zbyszko:** You sure are nosy, Ross. It's all business. Baby Doll is a very good business woman. When I decided to make a move to the NWA, she heard about it through the grapevine and called me. She said that she had a file on NWA champions that would guarantee that I could step right through the belts and be World Champion in no time. She is my business manager. She gets a percentage of the very large amount of money that I am going to make. Also her presence at ringside encourages me.

**Jim:** Ok, not that she wouldn't interfere. What about your match at Starrcade? You'll be teaming up with Eddie Gilbert and Rick Steiner in a Six-Man match against Michael Hayes, Jimmy Garvin and Sting.

**Zbyszko:** Yea, I've got super partners, but I'm in a match against two guys who oughta be in a rock band and one kid who thinks it's Trick-or-Treat. Geez! Wierd dude.

**Jim:** I have to go back to ringside now, Larry. I try to stay out of these things, but a word of advice from someone who knows. You better take Sting, Hayes and Garvin seriously.

**Zbyszko:** Oh really? Thank you, Jim Ross. I'll remember that as I throw their bodies on your table at Starrcade. Sheee. I don't get respect from any of these spudheads.

And Zbyszko turns and heads out the locker room door.



# Sting

**A few thoughts from one of the fastest rising stars in Pro Wrestling, right before Starrcade.**

*We have received a lot of mail lately about Sting. We had a chance to talk to him recently and asked him some questions about his upcoming match at Starrcade in Chicago. He will be joining up with Freebird Michael P.S. Hayes and Gorgeous Jimmy Garvin and going up against the trio of "Hot-stuff" Eddie Gilbert, his former manager, Rick Steiner, his former partner and Larry Zbyszko, world-renowned wrestling star and trouble-maker.*

*Sting had just a few minutes before his match, but was pumped up and willing to talk.*

**PWD:** Sting, this match at Starrcade teams up a lot of different people for a lot of different reasons. Can you put it in perspective for us? For example, your partners, Hayes and Garvin. Have you teamed with these guys before? Do you think they'll help you if Gilbert and Steiner do a two-on-one on you? Why did you pick them?

**STING:** Let me put it this way. I'm a little bit crazy. I've said it and I admit it. Sometimes in the ring I just go nuts. Well, these two guys



Sting lifts Eddie Gilbert up into the lights.



Sting beats on Terry Taylor.

are a bit crazy too, and I don't think they mind me saying that. Just like me, these two have been on both sides of the fence. I've fought with them, and I've fought against them. I have a tremendous amount of respect for Michael Hayes. And for Jimmy Garvin too, for that matter. This match is going to be a war. I promise you that. When it comes to brawling I'm pretty confident that Hayes and Garvin know how to brawl with the best of them. That's why I picked 'em.

**PWD:** Well, your motivation in this match is to get Gilbert and Steiner. What about Hayes' and Garvin's motivation? Is it personal for them like it is for you?

**STING:** Gilbert's group has never been on any kind of friendly basis with any of the Freebirds. Hayes and Gilbert do not like each other. In a serious way. It goes way back, but the promoters are nervous to sign matches with those two because it gets real serious.

**PWD:** Well, I personally think that you three will make a great team. What about



One of wrestling's fastest rising stars - Sting.

your opponents? This thing with you and Gilbert and Steiner is still going on. Why can't you let it alone?

**STING:** Yea, right. Sure. John Ayres called me at a hotel in some city we were in and told me that Jim Crockett would like to put me in a main event at Starrcade. When I got home a few days later, there were two messages on my answering machine from Mr. Crockett. The first one said that he'd like to have me wrestle Gilbert at Starrcade. The second message said that he had spoken with Gilbert and that the only way he'd wrestle me was in a six-man match. I had to come up with two partners. I called Mr. Crockett immediately and told him that I would sign that contract. I'd be there in Chicago with two partners. But I had some doubts about all this.

**PWD:** Oh? Like what?

**STING:** Well, for one, why does Eddie want it to be a six-man only? Why does he and Steiner need someone else?

**PWD:** Why?

**STING:** Because they're chickens! That's why! "Hot Puff" Gilbert and "Beach Boy" Steiner. They know I get a little bit crazy and I will probably hurt them very bad. All by myself. They want someone to run in and save them when they're in trouble. They've made a big mistake though. A big one. (long pause)



PWD: What is it?

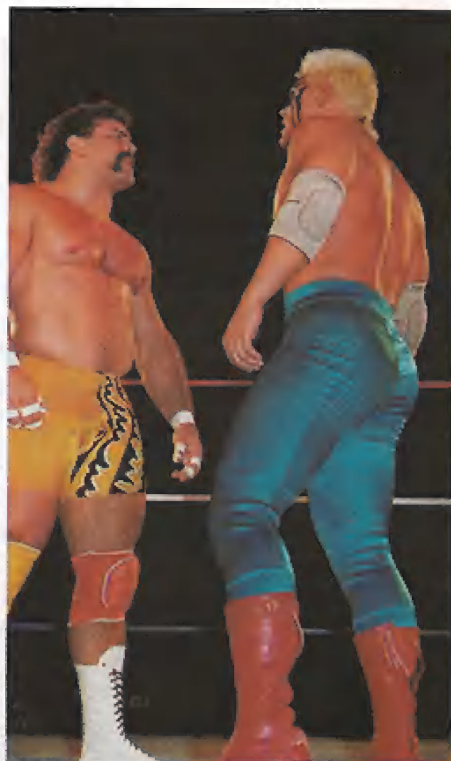
*STING: Because now it's not just me that's gonna pound them. Hayes gets to pound them and Gorgeous Jimmy gets to pound them. In fact, that's one of the incentives I promised them. That they get to pound those two all they want to. And Larry Nabisco, or whatever his name is. We might not pin them until right before the time limit and just beat them up the whole time.*

PWD: It's Zbyszko. But what about Zbyszko? Where does he fit into all this?

*STING: He's sticking his nose into something that he doesn't belong in. Gilbert stuck me and turned my former partner against me. Zbyszko doesn't belong in this. I think Gilbert called him and got him there as a "bodyguard" for himself in case Steiner is busy with his own problems.*

PWD: Do you have a battle plan for Starrcade?

*STING: Yea, but I'm not saying. What I can say is Eddie Gilbert better make sure his hospitalization is all paid up. He's gonna need it Thanksgiving night.*



Sting goes against his former tag-team partner Rick Steiner.

## Two more pictures for your scrapbook...



Dusty Rhodes & Tully Blanchard in a Bunkhouse Barbed-Wire Match in Dallas.





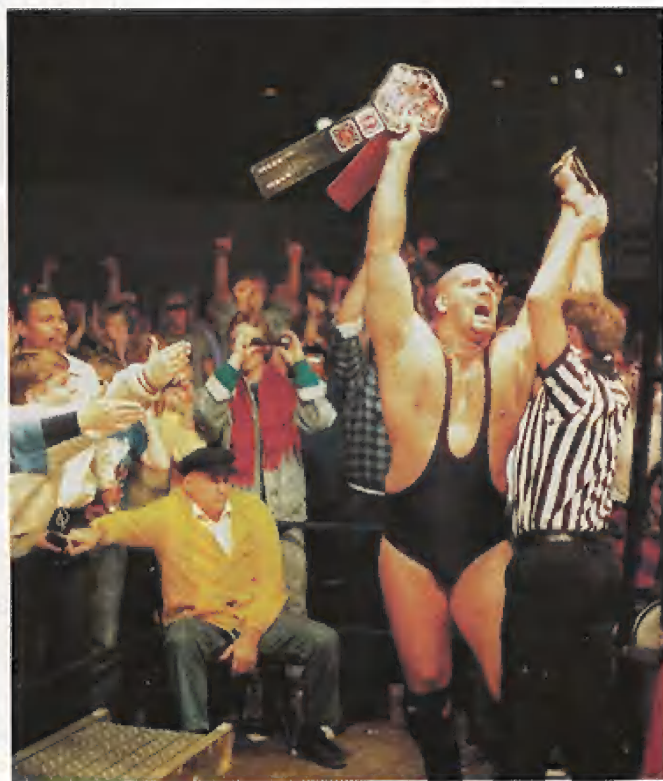
# STARRCADE '87

**EXCLUSIVE Full Color First Look At What Happened...**

Because of necessary lead-time, this issue was put together just before Starrcade. We saved these two pages and the back page, however, for a first exclusive pictorial look at Starrcade action that you will not see in other wrestling magazines for months. These pages are just a sample of the great action that occurred at Starrcade '87. Next month we will provide the most in-depth Starrcade coverage to appear anywhere with exclusive interviews with the winners - and hopefully the losers. We will go from match to match describing the great action, as well as the controversies. Our film that just came back from the lab had over 200 useable great shots from Starrcade, so here is just a sampler until next month;



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*A pictorial look at The Legion of Doom*

# The Road Warriors

*"We were just two little demented kids who grew up in Chicago to be super sub-humans whose entire purpose in life was to beat people up."*

- Hawk to Tony Shlavone



## Hawk and Animal





# Record Review:

## "Off The Streets"

OFF THE STREETS  
Michael P.S. Hayes  
Grand Theft Records  
LP, cassette, \$9.95

*OFF THE STREETS*, Freebird Michael Hayes' long awaited album debut, has finally, literally, "hit the streets". Well, we've all heard *BADSTREET USA* and *THE BOYS ARE BACK IN TOWN*, but that's about all we've heard of Michael. This album shows us the other sides to a multi-faceted, very talented Michael Hayes.

Every other record album ever released that was associated with wrestlers or wrestling has been a gimmick. They were a novelty to sell to kids because of who's picture was on the record jacket. Hayes says the reason for the length of time that it took to put this album together was because he wanted to break this trend. He wanted to put out a album of good music and rock and roll that people would want to play over and over. Well, I believe he has succeeded. This is a tape that you will WANT to play in your car! This is an album that you will listen to over and over. This has got some GOOD music on it.

The amazing thing is that Hayes wrote most of the lyrics himself on the album along with his producer, Jimmy Papa, who also wrote most of the music. Papa is also drummer on the album and lays down a good solid beat throughout. The other members are top studio musicians who have played with the best. Gordy and Roberts provide background vocals on *BADSTREET*.

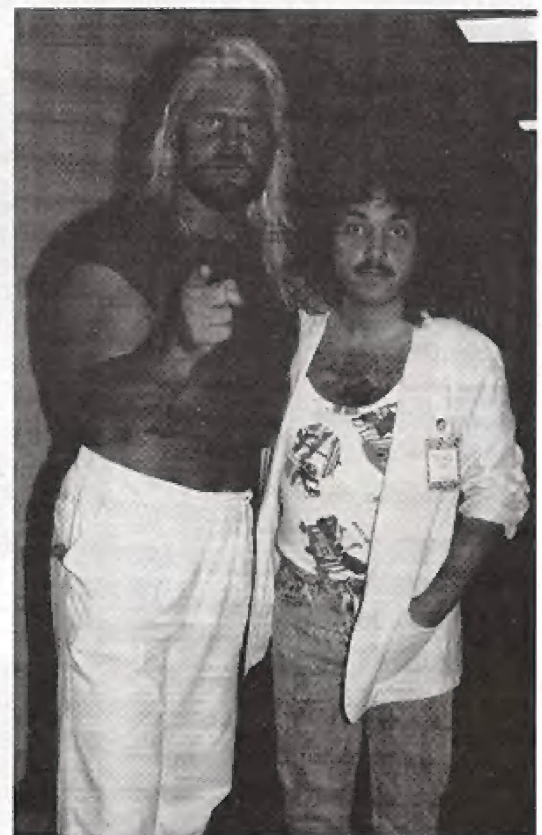
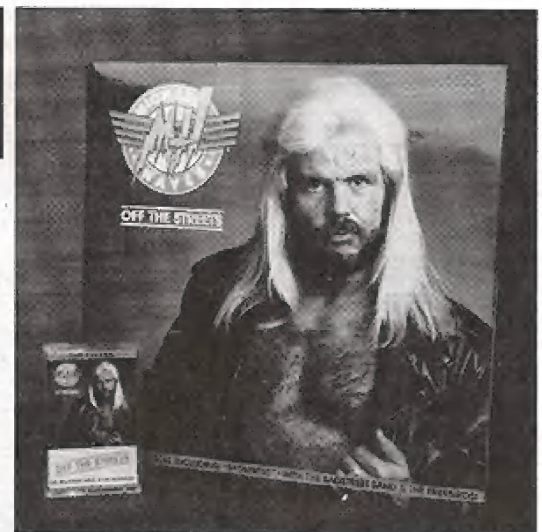
Side "A" opens with a very upbeat number called *Everything is Alright*. This song really shows how far Hayes has come since *BADSTREET USA*. He has a different sound in each song. Perhaps this shows that he has not yet found his true style, however his style in this particular song is outstanding. It is rich and full. Not full of gravel as in *BADSTREET USA*. The song has a great horn section and this is the strongest song on the side. It is followed up by some good grinding rock and roll.

Side "B" is loaded. It starts out with *THE BOYS ARE BACK IN TOWN*, which has never been released on record before. This is a solid rocker. Strong

vocals and Hayes really comes through. *BLUE JEAN QUEEN* is another great song on this side that Hayes and Papa wrote together. It is a personal song about someone in Hayes' life. Great beat, great horns, a great song. Very strong.

The album finishes with his patented standard *BADSTREET USA*, but this album version is cleaner, with strong stereo separation and great bass. The album has ten songs, while the cassette has eleven. If you order the album, however, you get an un-retouched poster of Hayes, that well, you've just got to see it to believe it.

All in all, *OFF THE STREETS* is a very good album. I believe that several of the songs would do very well if released through the regular channels, like radio. If you are a Freebird fan or a Michael Hayes fan, you will want this record. This is not a gimmick record that you will be bored with after you play it one time. Unless you hate rock and roll. It's got some really good music that you will enjoy hearing again and again.



Michel Hayes poses with his producer and co-writer, Jimmy Papa at Reunion Arena in Dallas.





# What is **TWN** ?

**THE WRESTLING NETWORK**

Our offices have been flooded with mail asking this question. The Wrestling Network, headquartered in Dallas, Texas, is the fastest growing sports entertainment television network in the country. TWN is responsible for the placement of the five most exciting wrestling programs in America, *NWA Worldwide Wrestling*, *NWA Pro Wrestling*, *CWF Wrestling*, *Power Pro Wrestling* and *UWF Wrestling* to television stations across America.

Jim Crockett is the president of TWN, which was created in May 1987. Since that time, TWN has grown to Top Ten status in syndicated television ratings and now boasts over 200 stations as a vital part of The Wrestling Network family.

Exciting television programs are a way of life for the Crockett family as they have been producing weekly television programs since 1955. That's over 30 years of dedicated service to the television industry.

In upcoming months, not only will we be highlighting TWN, but we will also be featuring stories on the top television executives that are involved with this rapidly growing company. Here are a few of the behind-the-scenes people who are vital in bringing these great shows to you.



Above: Wayne Daniel, Associate Producer for The Wrestling Network, is one of the most respected professionals in television. Wayne is one of the people responsible for the exciting television programs seen weekly across America on TWN.



Above: Emerson Lawson, the Network's Editor, has won an Emmy for the 1976 Winter Olympics with ABC, and has done work for NBC, ESPN and PBS as well.



Above: Bob Von Gyurcsy, Director of the shows, has been involved with television and professional wrestling for fifteen years.



Above: Among his other duties, Darrell Wofford is the man behind the voice on the customized spots produced for each individual city.



Above: Tim Willett, left, and Glenn Gurgiolo, right, are part of the TV syndication team responsible for placing TWN products on television stations nationwide.

Right: Ed Arbon is in charge of duplicating the video tapes of the shows and putting in your cities' graphics, etc., for each individual station. He and Darrell also take care of uploading the signal to the satellite for those stations capable of receiving the shows that way, rather than sending the tapes via Federal Express.





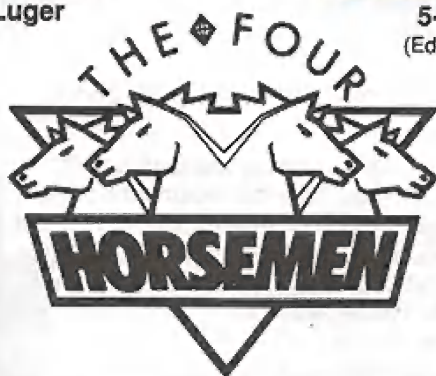


**U.S. Heavyweight Champion, Lex Luger**  
 (Ed.Note: Luger lost title at Starrcade '87)

**The Four Horsemen**



**5-time NWA World Champion, Ric Flair**  
 (Ed.Note: Flair won title for 5th time at Starrcade '87)



**NWA World Tag-Team  
 Co-Champion, Tully Blanchard**



**Leader and financial brain of The  
 Four Horsemen, J.J. Dillon**



**NWA World Tag-Team  
 Co-Champion, Arn Anderson**



## Letters - continued

Dear All Pro Wrestling,

Can you tell me why Commissioner John Ayres does not live up to his word? What happened to Eddie Gilbert's suspension and the rule about the top rope? I really do think that there are NO RULES and probably NEVER will be. Eddie Gilbert and Dirty Dick Murdoch know what I'm talking about. I also think that anytime any of the rulebreakers have a match, they should have two referees. I think that Commissioner John Ayres should find him a job elsewhere so that he can do his cheating. I could almost bet that somebody like Akbar pays him off pretty well, and Akbar is not the only one, either.

It's a shame that Eddie Gilbert could not be like his daddy. I only wished that his daddy would just kick the snot out of that so called "Hot Stuff". All of that stuff that Eddie does, I would not stand for. And what about the fine for hitting a referee? That rule does not stand either. So please do not make excuses for Mr. John Ayres because there isn't any!  
Elizabeth Farrow  
Hulbert, OK

*Elizabeth - we are not answering for Mr. Ayres. You make some good points. I agree that Gilbert and his crew get away with FAR too much. Gilbert, Murdoch and Taylor have ALL been fined at various times, we've heard, but it's not always announced on TV.*

Congratulations All Pro Wrestling,

Your magazine is wonderful. It is up-to-date and clear cut. The interviews are very informative and the pictures capture the action. Could you please tell me what Robert Gibson is truly like. All I hear is Ricky Morton this and that, and never anything about Robert. Ricky is as cute as they come, but I just happen to think Robert is better looking. No offense to Ricky, just my opinion.

As for Terry Taylor, teaming with Eddie Gilbert could prove a bit costly. Sooner or later Eddie will do something at Terry's expense. So watch it, Terry.

My favorite wrestlers are Terry Taylor, Barry Windham, Dr. Death and the Rock-N-Roll Express. Hope you have lots of articles on all of them in future issues.

Please tell Jim Ross and Magnum T.A. to keep up the good work. Wrestling would not be the same without their play by play comments.

P.S. Combining UWF action and

NWA action is awesome. I love it. Could you cut down the commercials please? Thanks.

Sincerely,  
M. Clements  
Greensboro, AL

*Thanks for the comments. Robert Gibson is a quiet person. He doesn't yell and scream and jump up and down, as you can see on TV. That is why Ricky does most of the talking. He has a very soft voice that wrestlers sometimes mistake for a weakness on his part. Wrong. He can get the job done in the ring! We don't love commercials either, but they pay the bills. So please support their advertisers. Without them you don't get the TV shows.*

Dear All Pro Wrestling,

I recently attended a NWA-UWF wrestling show in Memphis, TN. I just loved it. I haven't had so much fun ever. Although I live in another town, I just had to see the Rock-N-Roll Express. I would like to ask if NWA-UWF wrestling would please return to Memphis? I would come back and see them anytime.  
Tiffany Osborne  
Martin, TN

### They all want to write Dr. Death!

Dear Editor,

I enjoy reading your book and think it is the best. I like that you print the present news instead of months past. In your last issue you said that Dr. Death had a fan club. Could you please print the address as I would like to join.

Dot DuBose  
Channelview, TX

Dear Sirs,

You have the greatest magazine today. The pictures are the best and the articles are very interesting. I look forward to your magazine as it prints today's news and not past months. Also the calendar comes in handy so we can see where the wrestlers are.

In your last issue you said Steve Williams had a fan club. Can you tell his fans how to join? I will be looking forward to the next issue of your magazine.

Yours truly,  
Candy Gage  
Baytown, TX

*Thanks, Candy. The address was inadvertently left out. Doc's Official Fan Club address is:*

**"Dr. Death" Fan Club**  
P.O. Box 179  
Spring, TX 77383

Dear All Pro,

I wrote this letter to Terry Taylor and was hoping he could see it.

Terry Taylor,

I've heard all about your not needing any fans. I really thought you had gone bad, but the more I watched you fight and read about you I realized then that in the ring or on T.V. you might be bad, but I think deep down in that cold heart of yours, you are still good. You need those fans of yours that care about you. Don't forget about us, Terry. We watched you fight good and bad. And we care. So will the real Terry Taylor please step out.

Your worried fan,  
Sandra Woodruff  
Tulsa, OK



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# A Quick Conversation

with "Hotstuff" Eddie Gilbert

a short time before Starrcade.

Dennis: Eddie, this is your chance to tell the world, through our magazine, about Terry Taylor's TV Title unification match with Nikita Koloff.

Eddie: Are you gonna be in Chicago to see the match?

Dennis: Yes. Sure.

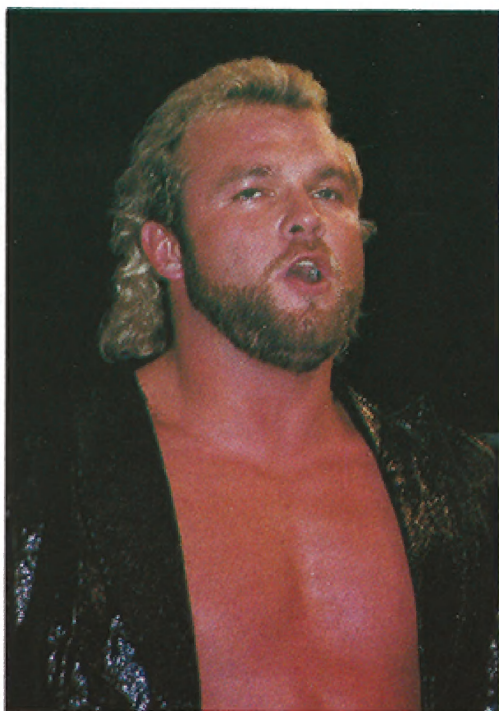
Eddie: Great! Then I've got this to say to Nikita Koloff. Nikita, you're about to come head-to-head with Terry Taylor to decide the one, the only, the REAL World Television Champion. And it's just gonna be you in the ring. All by yourself. You've got to come to the ring by your self and WE are going to be waiting. Dusty Rhodes is not gonna be around to help you. Ronnie Garvin's not gonna be around to help you. And Michael Hayes, Jimmy Garvin and Sting are certainly not gonna be around to help you because I'm gonna eliminate them first at Starrcade. But I'M GONNA BE THERE! I'M GONNA BE THERE, BABY! I'm gonna be there with the camera to take the first pictures of the new World Television Champion, Terry Taylor. I'm going to be right there at ringside the whole time. I'm gonna be the one to hug his neck. I'm the one who's gonna be there to raise his hand. I'm the one who's gonna help him strap the TV belt on. I'm so happy! This is so great! You're gonna be there too, right? You'll be taking pictures too?

Dennis: Yep. I wouldn't miss it. Hey, don't hug me! Put me down!

Eddie: I'm just so happy! We're all gonna be there! And Jim Ross and Tony Schiavone and David Crockett and Jack Gregory and Bob Caudel. Everyone's finally gonna see! I'm gonna beat Sting. Steiner's gonna beat Michael Hayes. Larry Zbyszko's gonna beat Jimmy Garvin. Terry's gonna beat Nikita! This is just so great! I can't wait! This will be in the magazine, right?

Dennis: I can't wait either, Eddie. Yes, it'll be in the magazine. Now please put me down.

Eddie: Ok. But I'm happy.



"Hotstuff" Eddie Gilbert

"Dr. Death" Fan Club  
P.O. Box 179  
Spring, TX 77383



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## News Flash!

**Dusty Rhodes hints at retiring at press conference after Starrcade!**

***Jim Crockett is shocked!***



**All the details next issue!**

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**Tully Blanchard vs. Ron Garvin**



**NWA Women's Champion, Misty Blue**

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Here's how it works. Starting next issue, there will be two Official Ballots bound in each copy of the magazine/program. Important! Use only official entry blanks. Photo copies and postcards will not be allowed. Fill in the contestants that would be a dream match for not only you, but the rest of the fans to see. In case of duplicate entries a drawing will be held. Keep reading NWA Pro Wrestling Digest to see how voting is coming along and to accumulate more ballots. You can vote as often as you wish, as long as they are on the Official Ballot. Employees and families of NWA-PWD, JCP and TWN are not allowed to enter. Winners under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.





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